BOOM! STUDIOS™

JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 24

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

I CAN'T FIND MY BATHING SUIT ANYWHERE.

I PACKED IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU. IT'S NOT THERE.

MAYBE IF YOU PACKED ***YOUR OWN*** BAG FOR ONCE YOU'D BE ABLE TO FIND IT.

COME THE FUCK ***ON.*** THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A ***RELAXING*** VACATION!

THEY'RE FIGHTING AGAIN.
I KNOW.
I WISH THE POOL WASN'T SO HOT. IT MAKES ME WANT TO GO TO SLEEP. OR *PEE.*
EW. DON'T PEE IN THERE.
I'M *NOT.* I JUST SAID IT MAKES ME *FEEL* LIKE I HAVE TO.
YOU'RE SO *GROSS.*
UH...THERE'S SOMEBODY WATCHING US.
HEY! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
GET *OUT* OF HERE, YOU PERV!
HE'S NOT SAYING *ANYTHING.*

WHAT'S... WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIS FACE?

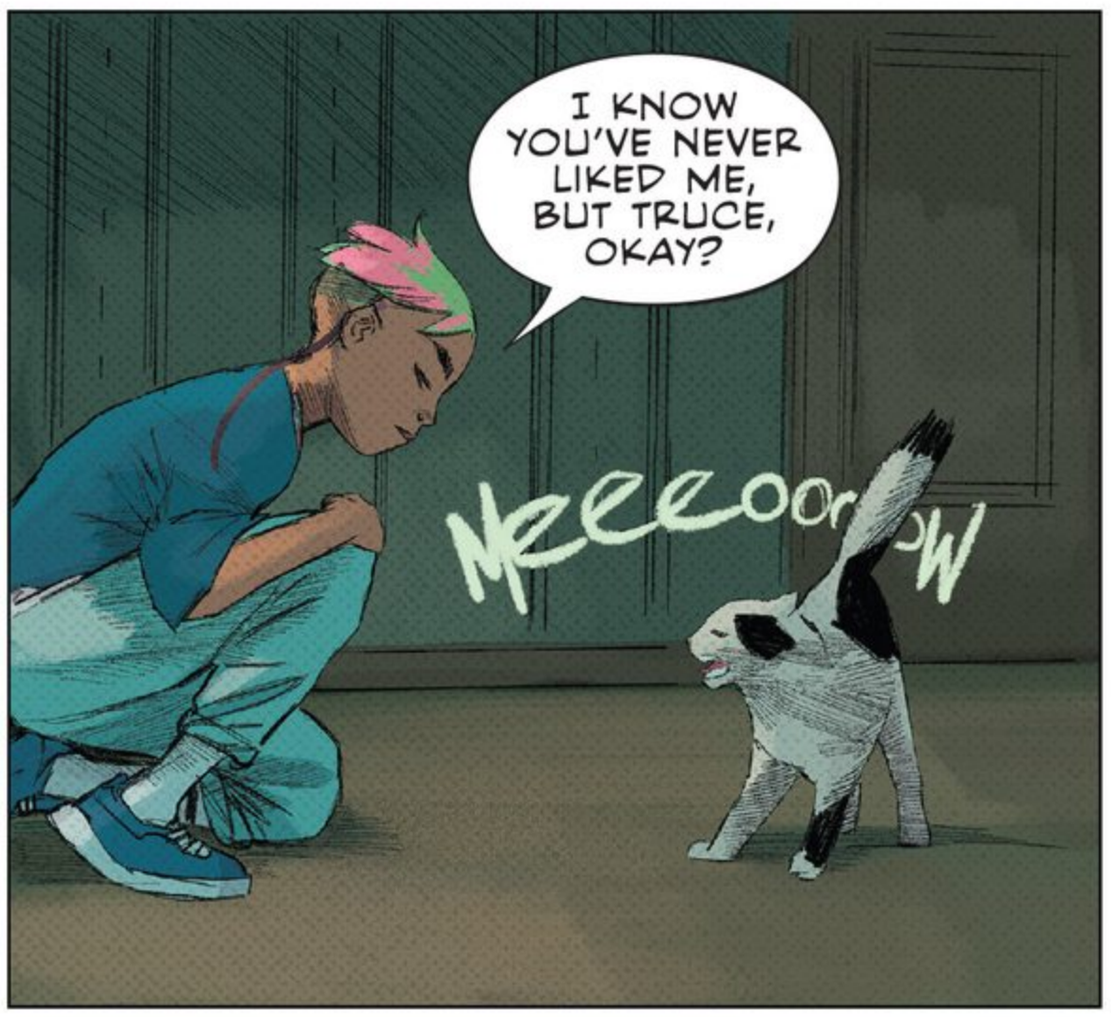
IS HE WEARING A MASK?

IT *HAS* TO BE A MASK.

AAAH

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON OUT THERE?

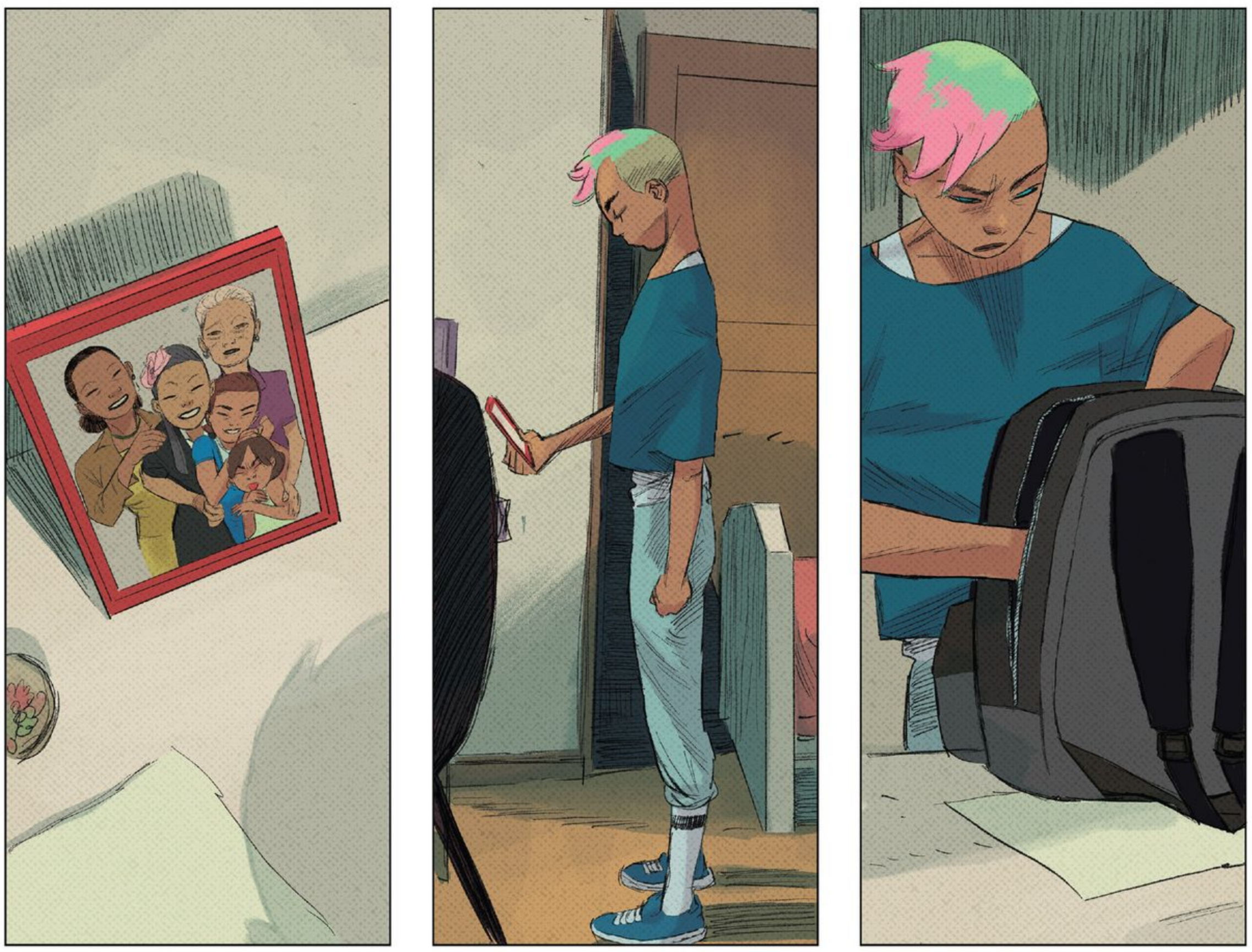
ICE


I KNOW YOU'VE NEVER LIKED ME, BUT TRUCE, OKAY?
MREEOOW

REEOOOWW

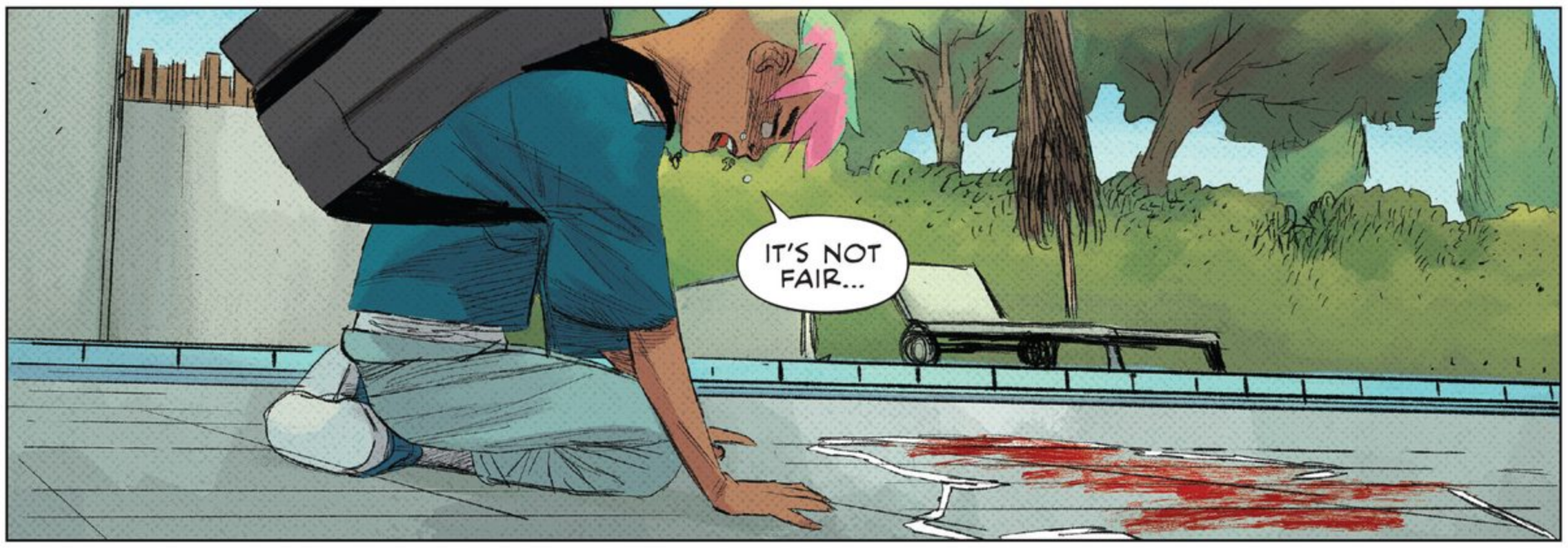
SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

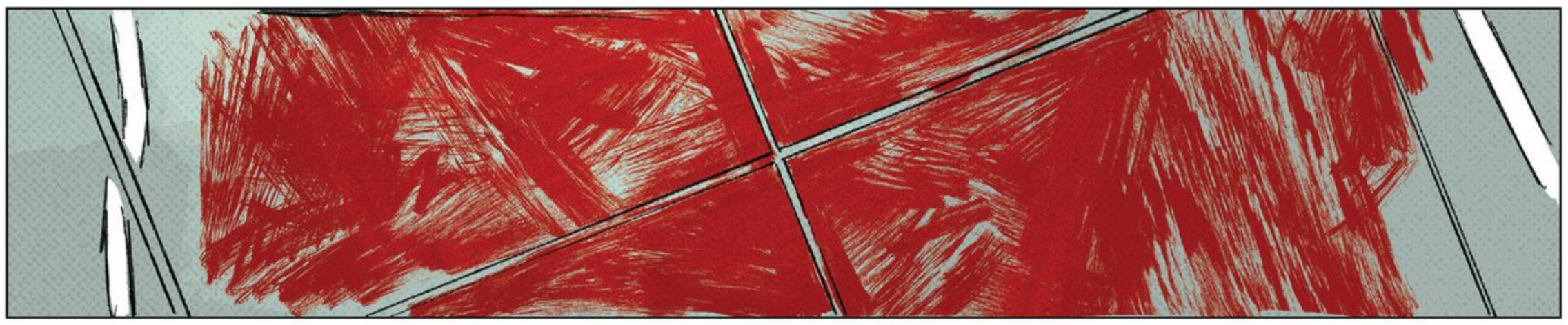
WELL FUCK YOU, TOO!



HSSS

HSSS...


IT'S NOT FAIR...



WHY THE FUCK DID THIS HAPPEN?!

BECAUSE SOMETHING VERY, VERY *MEAN* WAS VERY, VERY *HUNGRY.*

WHAT THE FUCK?! WHO'S THERE?

I'M HERE, GABI.

HELLO?

HELLO.

COME ON, GABI, ANSWER...

THIS IS RIQUI. LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.

FUCK.

THAT KID IS GOING TO KILL ME.

Hey carter. Gabi's not picking up the phone. Can you have somebody stop by and see if she's gone awol.

WTF, Riqui. You were supposed to keep an eye on her.

I have a fucking JOB, man.

Sending someone over now. You should think about shutting down for a few days.

ASSHOLE.

SHIT.

HEY. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. YOU MIND IF I KEEP SMOKING THIS? I KNOW I'M NOT ALLOWED INDOORS...

I WON'T TELL A SOUL.

THANK YOU.

CAN I GET A LAGER THAT DOESN'T TASTE LIKE PISS?

NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO DRIVE UP TO ALBUQUERQUE.

WHISKEY, THEN. COUPLE OF FINGERS.

SURE.

HAVING A DAY?

LADY, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.

I MIGHT.

YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF GABRIELLA LOPEZ.

BIG EYES.

HUH?

YOU TALKED TO HER THE OTHER DAY. IN THE PARKING LOT.

YEAH.

WHY?

I'M A REPORTER. DOING A STORY ON THE MURDERS HERE IN TRIBULATION.

HM.

OKAY. WHY ARE YOU *REALLY* HERE?

THERE'S A *STORY* HERE...

I BET THERE ARE NO STORIES AT THE *NEW YORK DAILY NEWS* BY ANYBODY NAMED ERICA SOUTER.

MAYBE I'M A NEW HIRE.

THEN SHOW ME A BYLINE OF YOURS. SHOW ME ***ANYTHING*** TO MAKE ME BELIEVE WHO YOU ARE.

I'M HERE TO HELP, RIQUI.

GET THE *FUCK* OUT OF THIS BAR.

LOOK. THERE WAS A TIME WHERE I COULD HAVE BACKED THAT UP. YOU WOULD HAVE LOOKED ME UP AND FOUND A HALF-DOZEN ARTICLES BY THAT NAME.

THUMP

BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF BACKUP ANYMORE. AND IT MAKES THIS JOB A LOT FUCKING HARDER.

I SAID GET THE FUCK OUT!

YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING FUCKING WEIRD AND DANGEROUS IN THIS SMALL TOWN.

NONE OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO STOP IT BY YOURSELF.

SHOOT ME IF YOU WANT. JUST KNOW THAT KIDS ARE GOING TO KEEP ON DYING, AND NOBODY ELSE IS GOING TO COME TO HELP.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

"ERICA SLAUGHTER...

"SHE HAD SUCH GREAT ***POTENTIAL*** IN THE BEGINNING. ONE OF OUR FINEST HUNTERS.

"BUT IN THE END, SHE COULDN'T ***CONFORM*** TO WHO THIS HOUSE NEEDED HER TO BE."

"SHE STOPPED HUNTING WHAT SHE WAS SENT TO HUNT?"

"SHE WAS NOT... ***DISCREET*** IN THE WAY WE NEEDED HER TO BE DISCREET.

"AND SHE REFUSED TO CLEAN UP THE ***MESSES*** SHE MADE. SHE WOULD RISK ***ORDER SECRETS*** TO PROTECT A SINGLE CHILD."

ENDANGERING THE ***DOZENS*** OUR ORDER SAVES EVERY DAY AROUND THE WORLD.

CAN I HAVE SOME?

THE GUMMIES.

OH. CERTAINLY.

HOW SWEET.

WHOSE FAULT IS SHE? ERICA, I MEAN.

I'M SORRY?

YOU SAY IT'S A MATTER OF ***DISCIPLINE.*** YOU COULDN'T MAKE HER DO WHAT YOU WANTED HER TO DO.

THAT SPEAKS TO HER ***TRAINING.***

THE WOMAN WHO TRAINED HER DIED MANY YEARS AGO.

THERE'S A STORY THERE, HUH, DOLLY? I LIKE THIS ***MEAN LADY*** AND THE ***MEAN WAY*** SHE SPEAKS.

THE ***HOUSE OF CUTTER*** SPEAKS VERY HIGHLY OF YOU, MISS...

YOU CAN JUST CALL ME ***CUTTER.*** THERE'S ONLY ONE OF ME HERE, AFTER ALL. THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF THE BLACK MASKS, YOU SEE.

IT ONLY TAKES ***ONE*** OF US.

YES...

WHO MATTERS TO HER? WHO DID SHE CARE ABOUT?

HER HANDLER ***AARON*** DIED ON HER LAST MISSION. THANKS TO HER POOR JUDGMENT.

I READ THE PAPERS YOU SENT OVER TO MY HOUSE. SHE IS STILL HUNTING. YOU KEEP FINDING EVIDENCE OF HER ***AFTER THE FACT.***

THAT MEANS THERE'S STILL SOMEBODY WHO ***CARES*** ABOUT HER. SOMEBODY WHO WOULD ***HELP.***

IT'S AWFULLY HARD TO FIND MONSTERS WITHOUT ***ORDER RESOURCES.***

AND I BELIEVE I READ THAT YOU HAVE EVIDENCE OF HER KILLING ***EIGHT*** SINCE THE EVENTS IN ***ARCHER'S PEAK.***

I ASSURE YOU...THERE IS NOBODY IN THIS HOUSE WHO WOULD HELP HER.

I AM GOING TO NEED ***FULL ACCESS.***

I NEED TO BE ABLE TO READ ***EVERY*** PRIVATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ***EVERY*** HUNTER IN THE ORDER.

THAT SEEMS SEVERE...

ENOUGH, CECILIA.

YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU WANT, MS. CUTTER.

OH, YES.

CHOP

I ALWAYS DO.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"THE ROAD TO TRIBULATION"
PART FOUR

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WERTHER DELL'EDERA

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LETTERED BY
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVER BY
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WITH COLORS BY MIQUEL MUERTO

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EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVER BY
BJÖRN BARENDS

VARIANT COVERS BY
JENNY FRISON
OLIVER BARRETT

CADENCE COMIC ART IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WERTHER DELL'EDERA
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ILLUSTRATED BY CO-CREATOR
WERTHER DELL'EDERA
(RAZORBLADES)

& CO-WRITER
SAM JOHNS
(PUNCHLINE, THE JOKER)

& RISING STAR ARTIST
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WYND™

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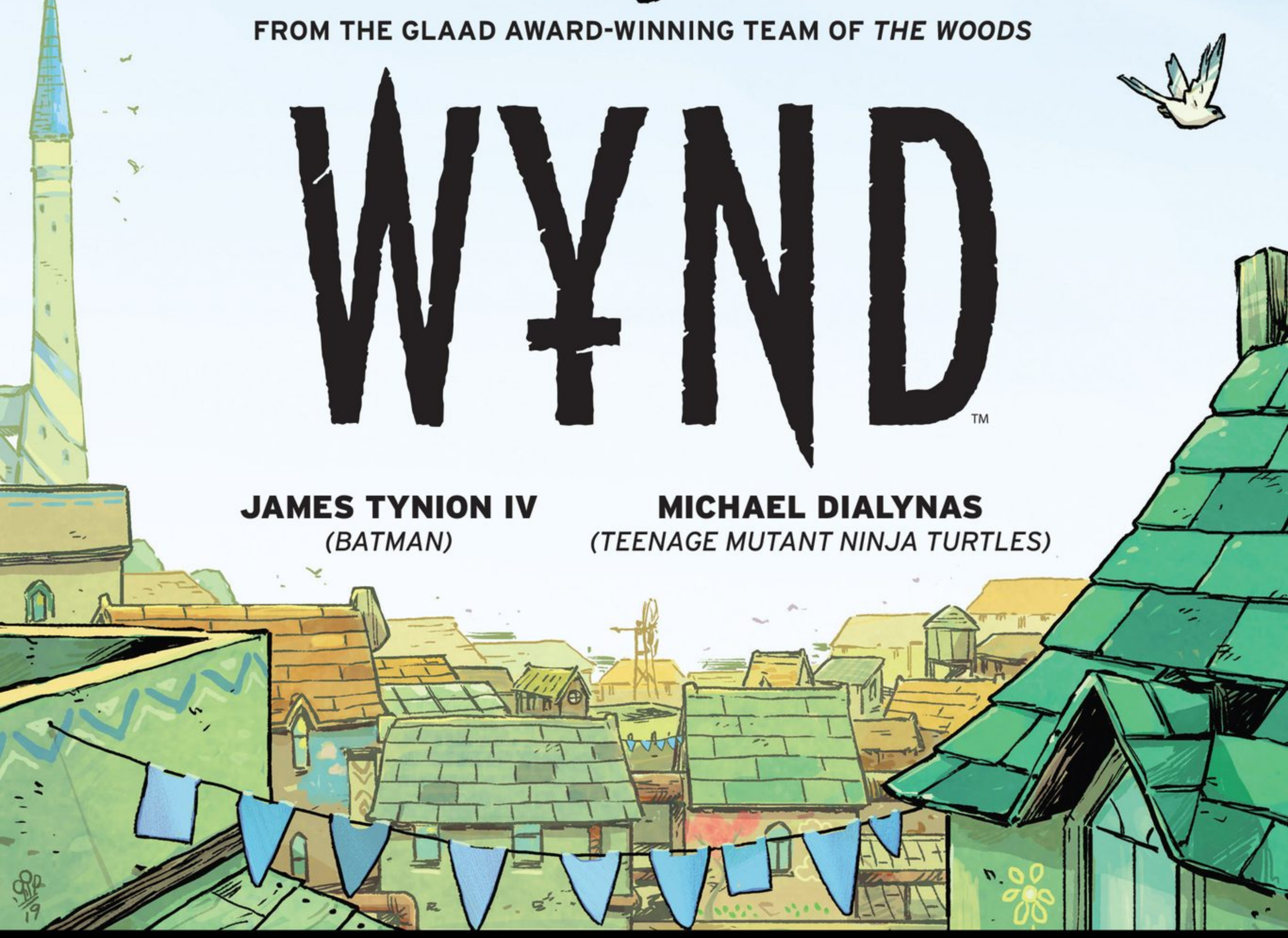
(BATMAN)

MICHAEL DIALYNAS
(TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES)



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